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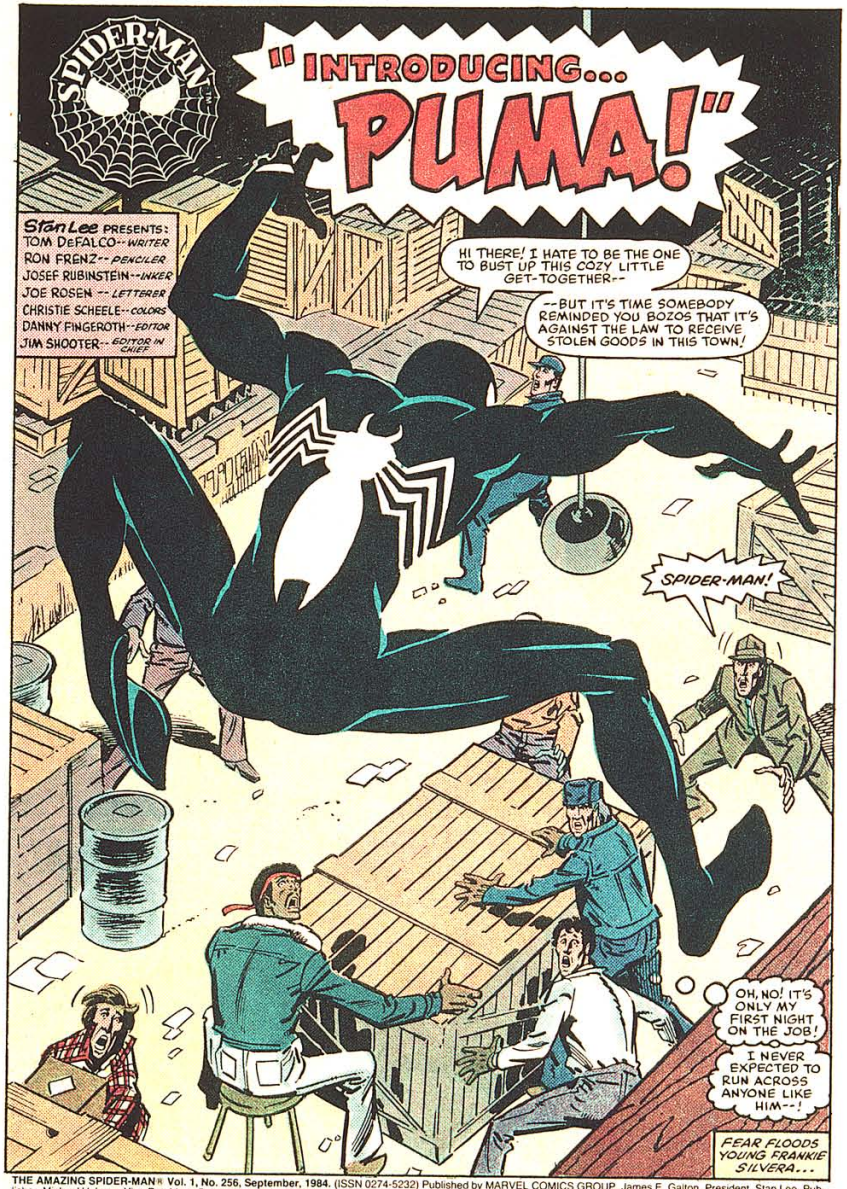

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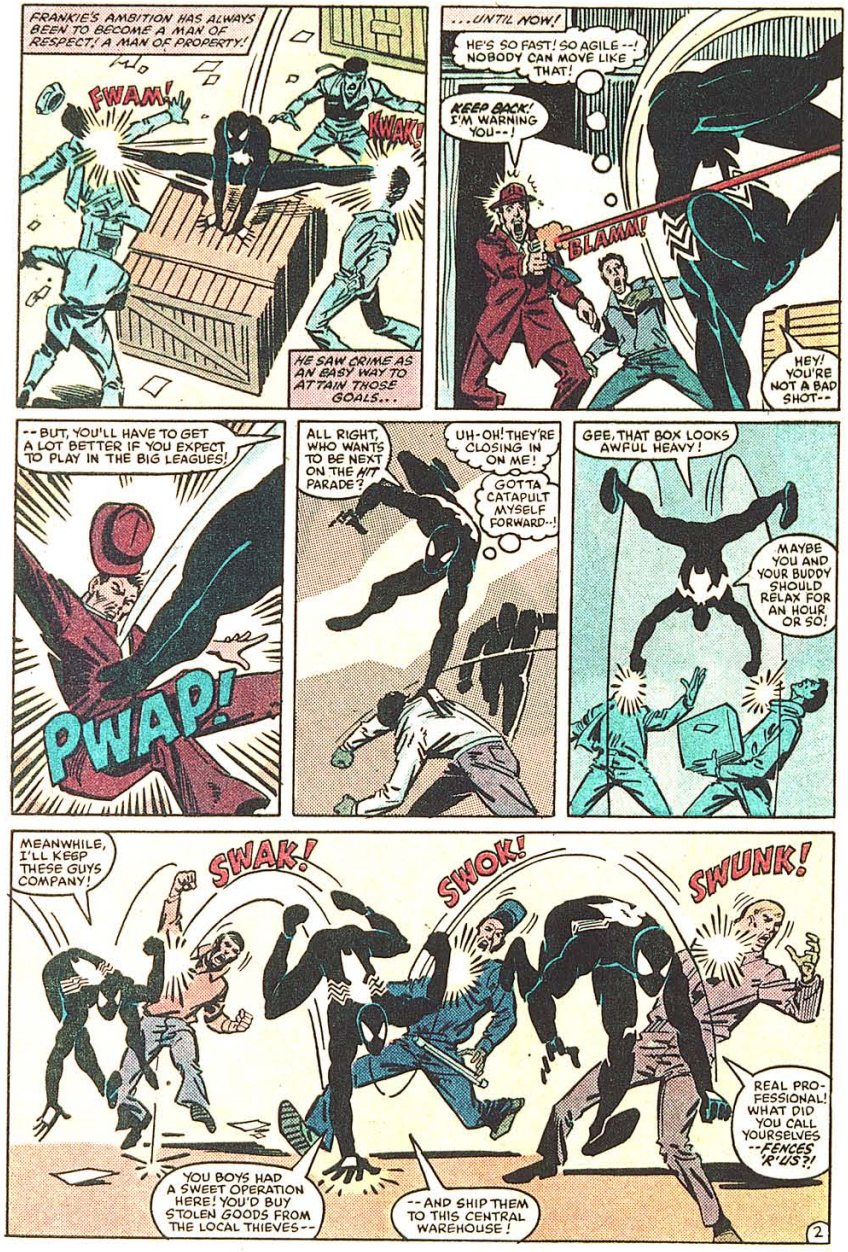

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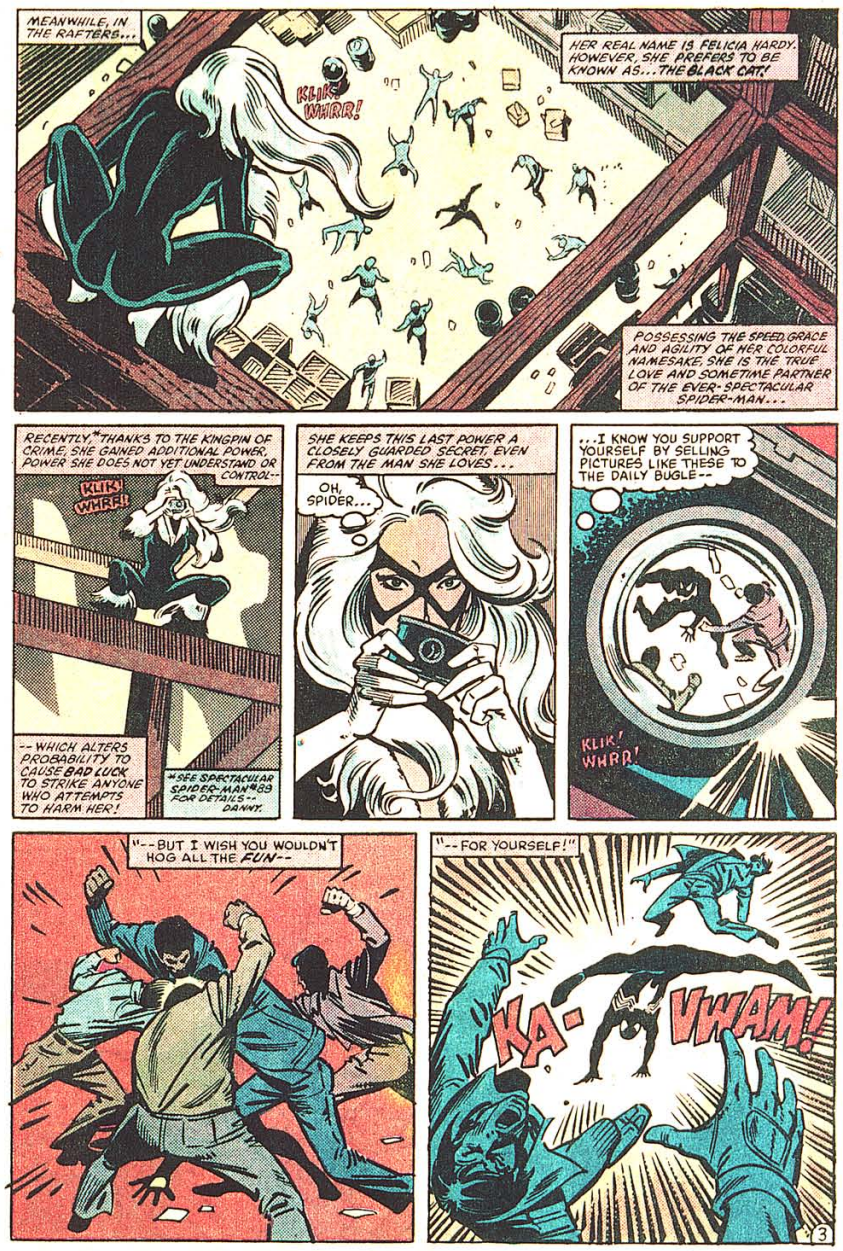

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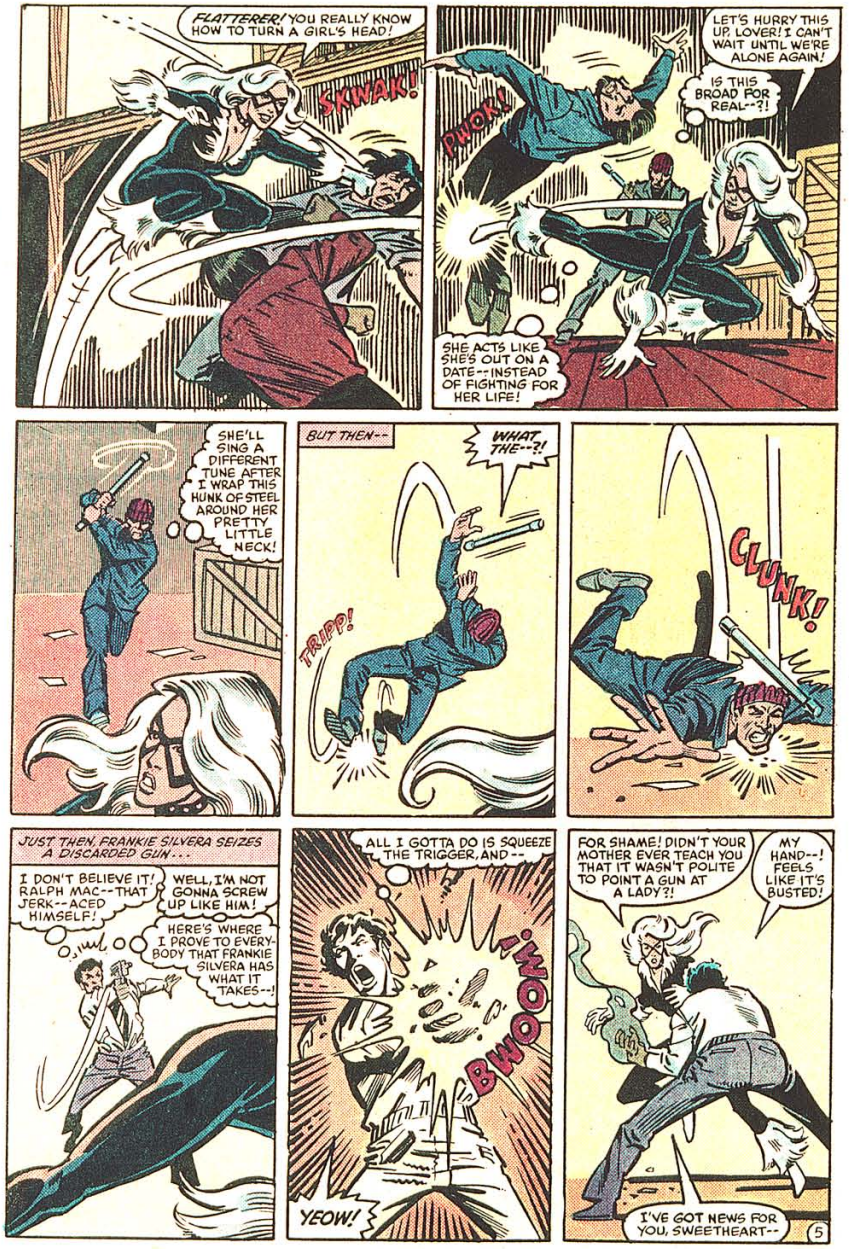

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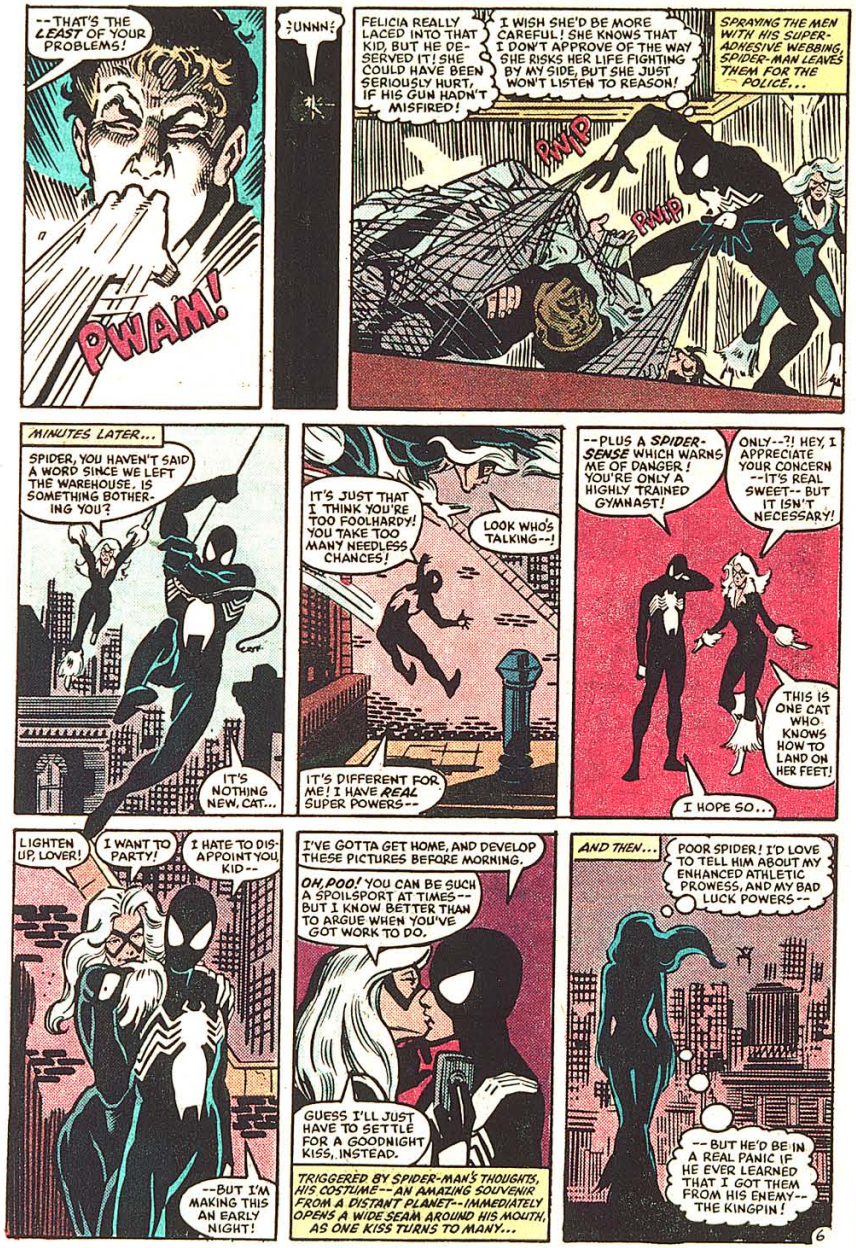

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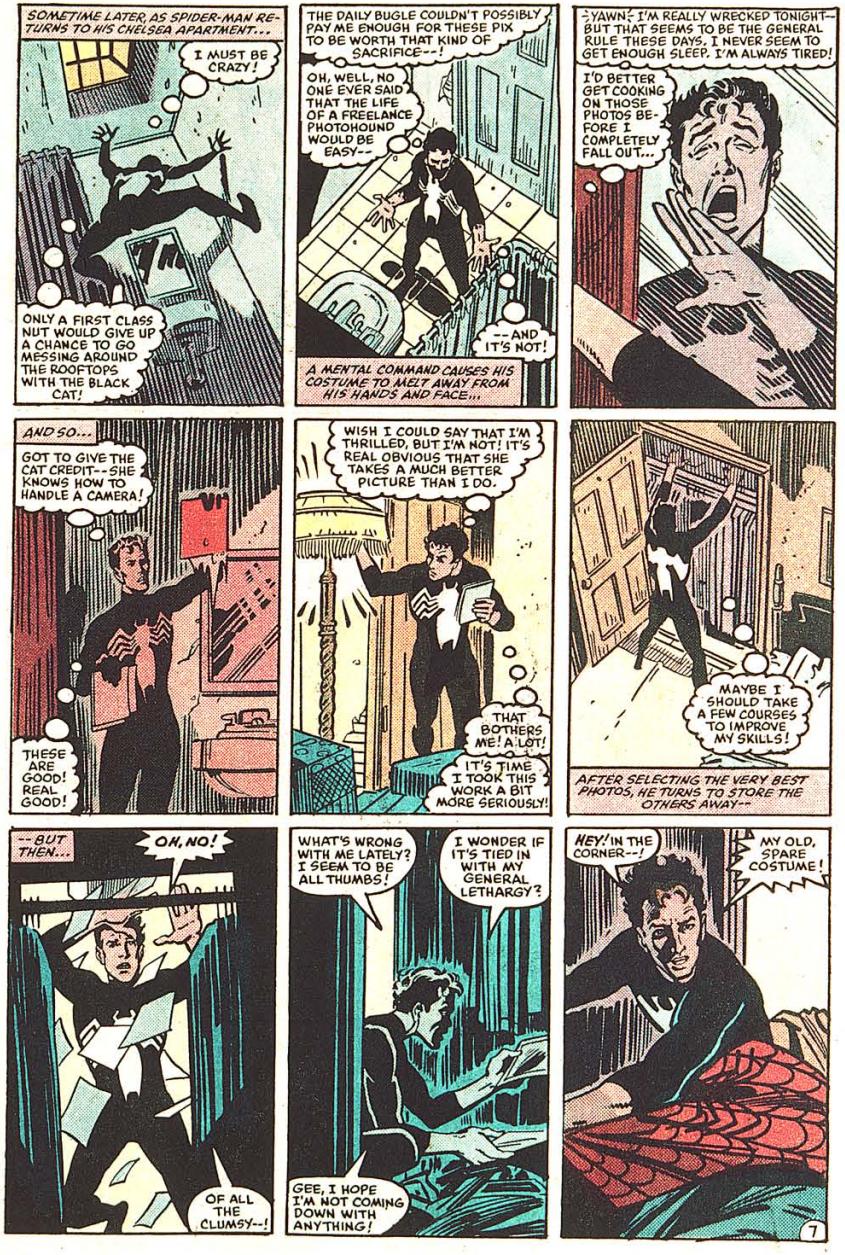

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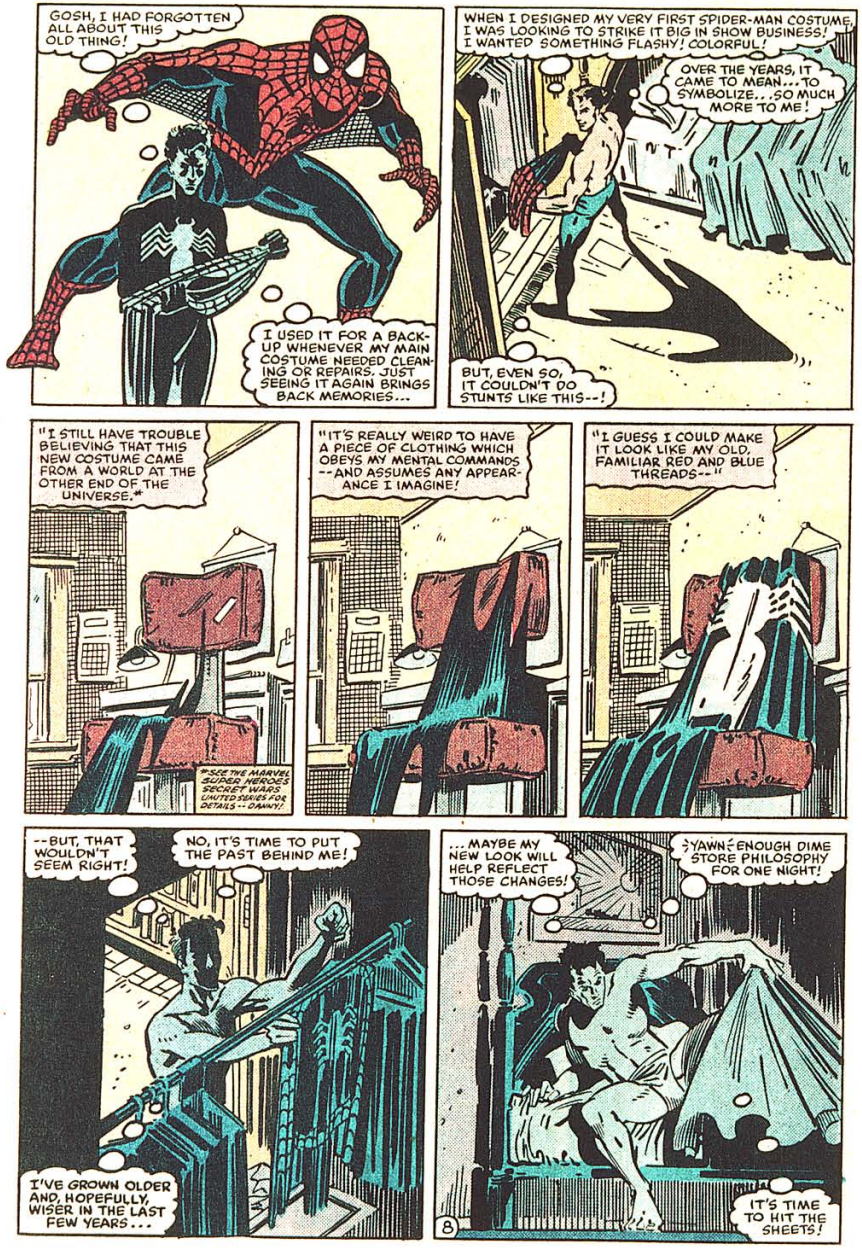

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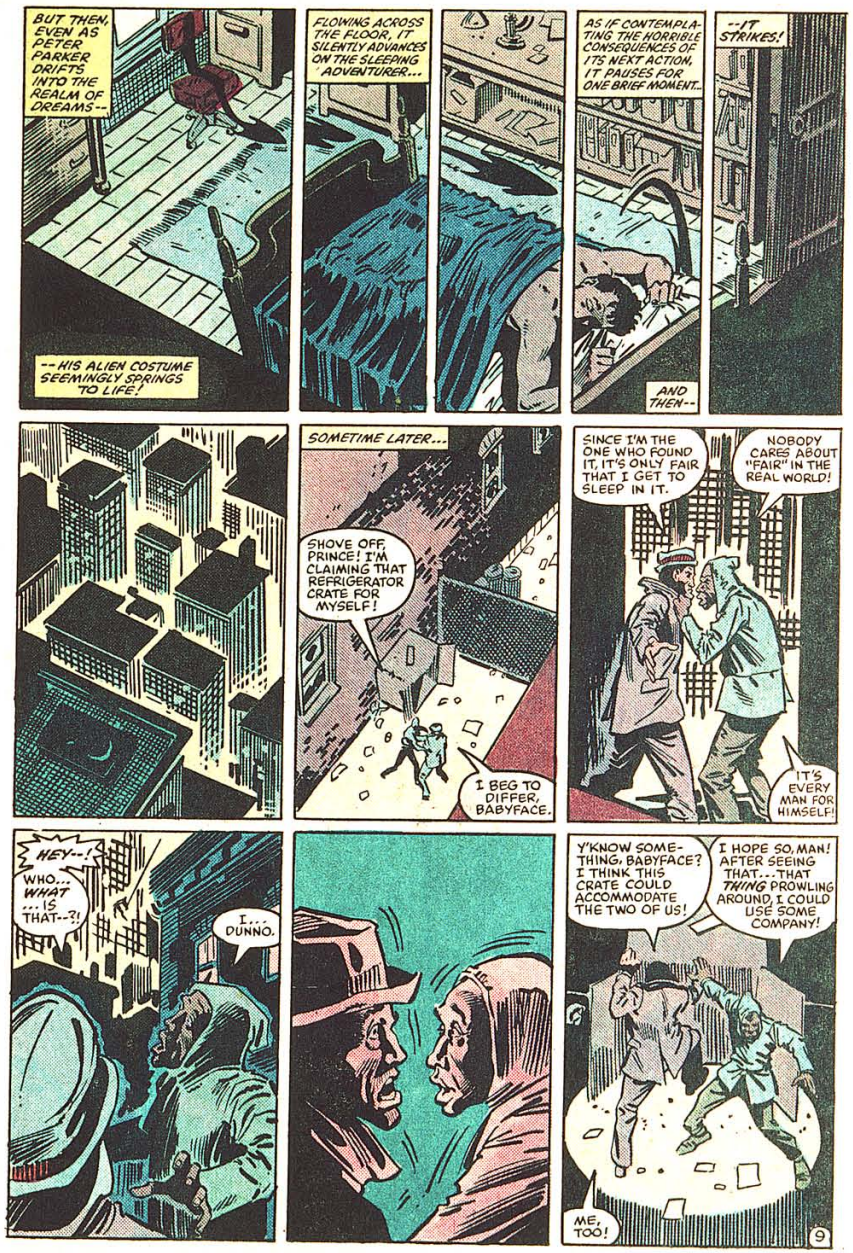

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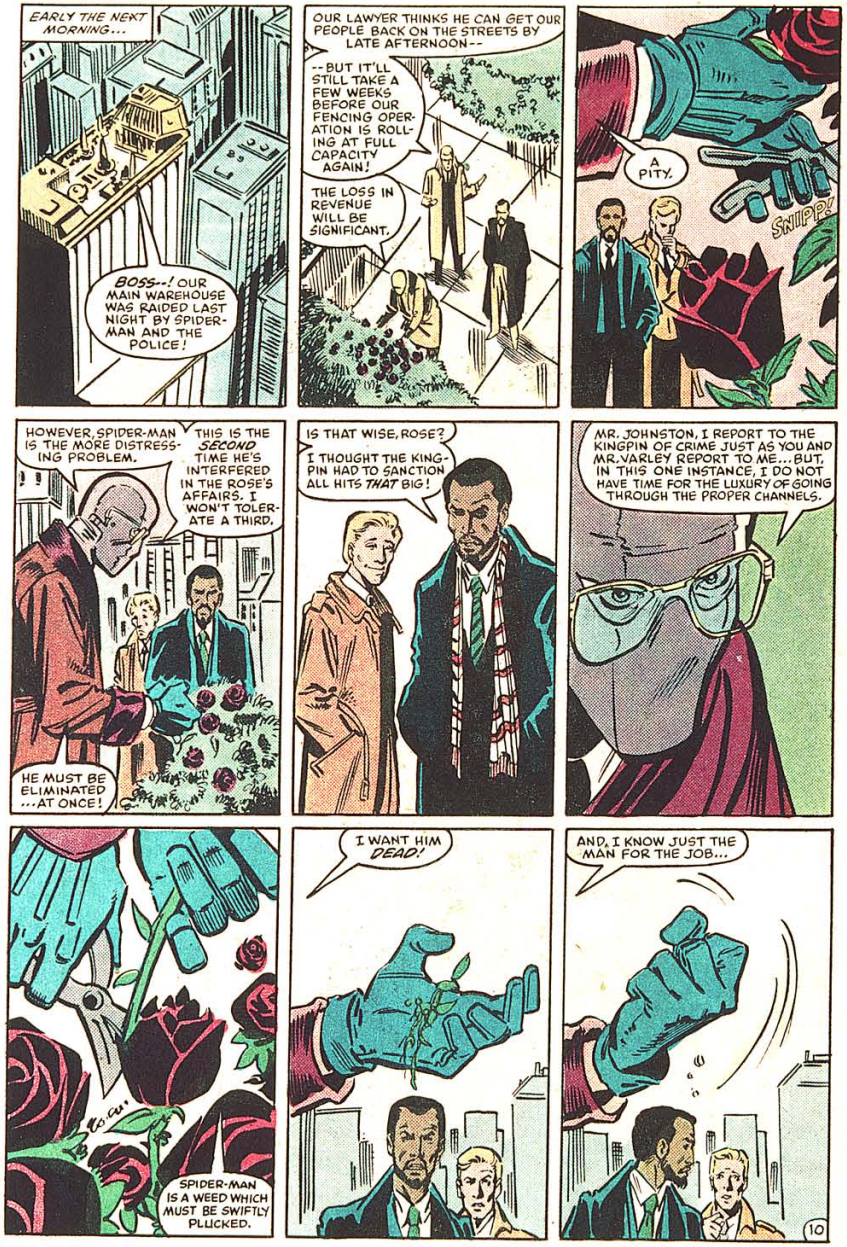

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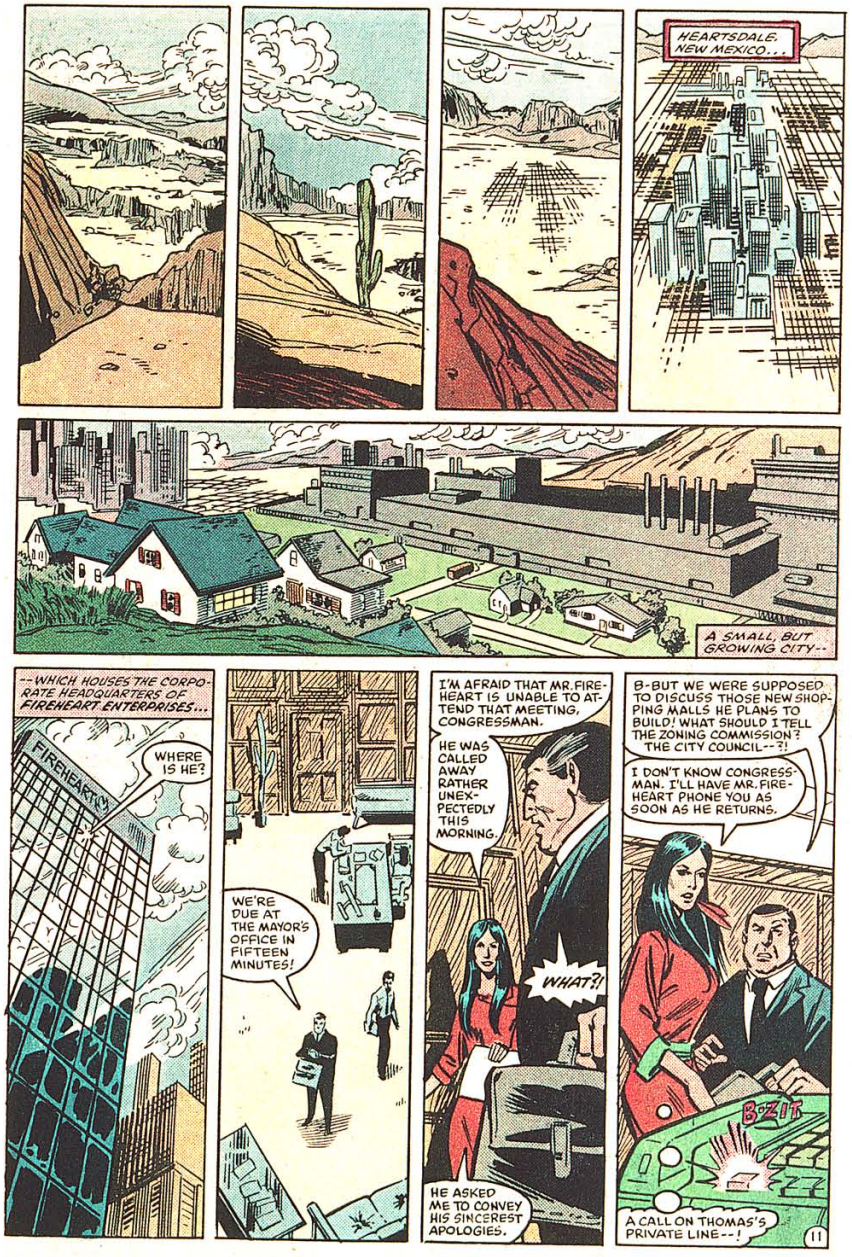

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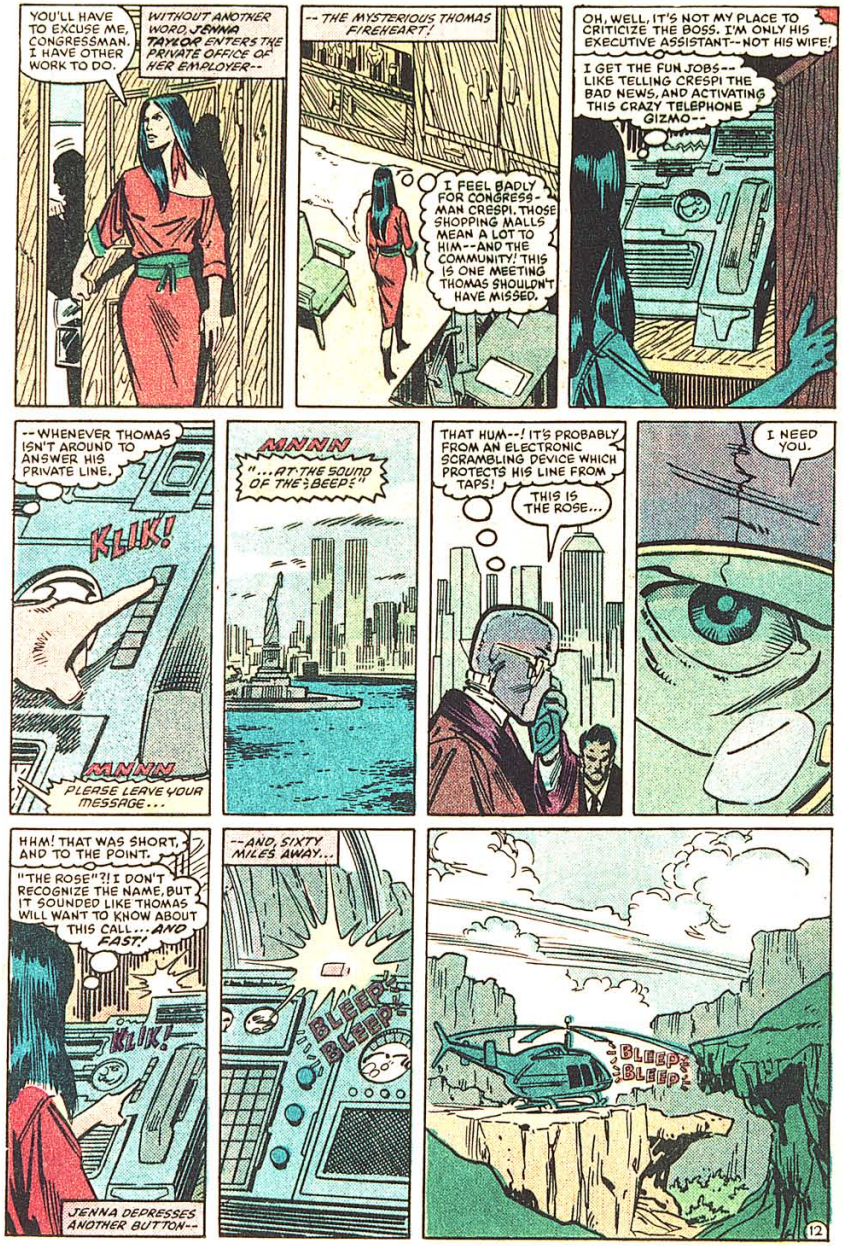

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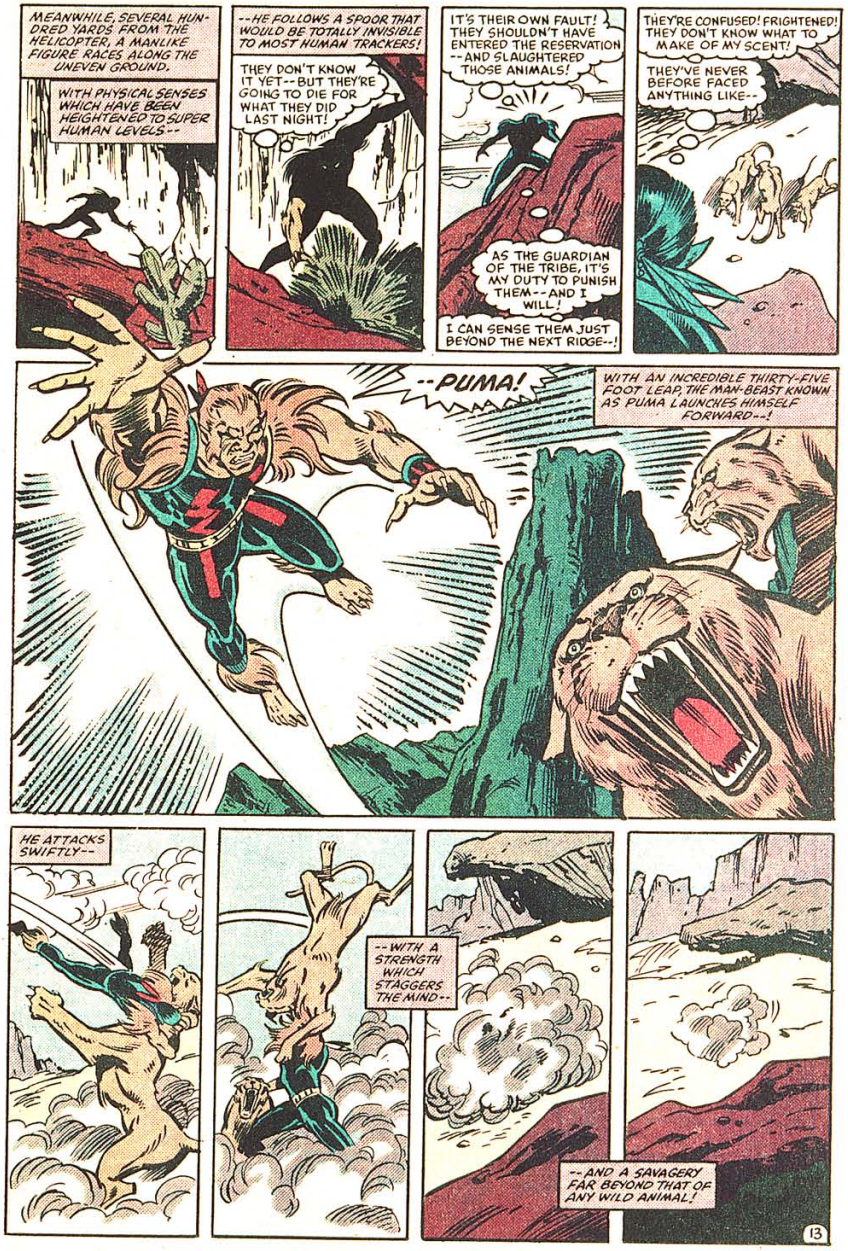

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Marvel

Amazing Adv. (1970) 2, 3, 9, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39
Avengers 236, 239, 240
Capt. America 256-278, 285, 287-290, Ann. 7
Capt. Marvel 51
Chronicles 4 Avengers, Ann. 1
Conan 114, 117, 118, 124, 125, 127-148, 150-155
Conan: The Movie Special Edition 1, 2
Crystar 2-5, 7
Daredevil 193-195, 197-206
Dazzler 2-8, 14, 21-25, 29-31
Defenders 111, 112, 115-120, 123-129
Dr. Strange 54-59, 61-63
Fantastic Four 252, 260-264
Fantasy Masterpieces (New) 4, 7, 11-13
Hulk 251-264, 266-270, 281-283, 285, 286, 288-292
Indiana Jones 2, 3, 11, 12, 14, 15
Iron Man 176-179
John Carter 1
Ka-Zar (1981) 2-30
Kull (Old) 16
Marvel Premiere 51-54, 56 61
Marvel Spotlight (New) 3-7, 9-11
Marvel Super-Heroes 36
Marvel Team-Up 102, 106, 111, 133, 136-138
Marvel Triple Action Annuals 2, 3
Marvel Two-in-One 76-81, 96
Micronauts 40, 42-44, 46, 47, 50, 51
Moon Knight 33-36
No Prize Book 1
Peter Parker 83-87
Power Man/Iron Fist 70, 71, 74, 78-82, 84, 85, 87-99, 101, 102
Raiders of the Lost Ark 1-3
Red Sonja (1983) 1, 2
Return of the Jedi 1-4
ROM 43, 47-51
She Hulk 1-5, 7-24
Spiderwoman 2, 4, 6, 8, 26, 31-34, 36, 39-43, 48
Star Trek 1-14
Star Wars 47-57, 76-80
Tarzan 4-7, 10, 16-20
Thor 303, 308-321, 325
What If? 35, 36, 41-43

DC

Action 489, 491, 497-499, 503-505, 512-520, 522-526, 530-532
Adventure 412, 415
All Star Squadron 18, 27-30
Arak 2-7, 26-28, 30, 31
Arion 5, 11-18
Atari Force 1, 2
Batman 325-332, 334-339, 352-357, 363-367, 369, 370
Batman and the Outsiders 4, 6, 7, 9
Brave and Bold 163, 167-171, 173-175, 177, 178, 183-187, 189-199
DC Comics Presents 35, 36, 38-40, 42, 45, 49, 54, 55
DC 100-Page Super Spectacular 20
DC Special Series 16, 20
DC Superstars 15
Demon 12, 14, 15
Detective 497, 499, 504, 511, 512, 514, 523, 530-535
Firestorm 16, 19-21
Flash 327, 329, 330
Green Lantern 149, 158, 159, 161, 170-173
Hercules 7
House of Secrets 95
Jimmy Olsen 162, 163
Jonah Hex 19, 57, 66
JLA 198, 199, 202
Kamandi 6, 9, 10, 12-17, 19
Korak 46, 49, 50, 53-56
Krypton Chronicles 1-3
Legion 302-308
New Gods 12
New Talent Showcase 1, 2
Omega Men 6-13
Powerlords 1-3
Rima 1, 2
Secrets of the Legion 1
Shade 1-5
Shadow 2, 4, 5
Showcase 96, 97, 101-103
Star Hunters 1, 2, 7
Steel 1-5
Superboy Spectacular 1
Superman 331, 345, 346, 348-350
Superman Family 193, 194, 204-206, 209-211, 215-219
Superman Special 1
Swamp Thing (Old) 9, 10
Swamp Thing (New) 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, Annual 1
Tarzan 214, 215, 217, 221-229
Warlord 48 (Arak)
Weird Worlds 5, 8-10
Wonder Woman 262, 263, 265, 274-276, 278, 284-286, 288-299, 301-312
World's Finest 284-299

Independent Publishers

Americomics 2-5
Americomics Special 1
Capt. Paragon 1
Capt. Freedom 1
Black Diamond 3
Destroyer Duck 2-4
John Law 1
Ms. Tree 2-4
Sabre 4-7
E-Man 8-12
Mars 1, 2
Warp 5-11
Warp Special 2
Hall of Fame 2, 3
T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents 1,2
Capt. Victory 1-13
Edge of Chaos 1-3
Silverheels 1
Silver Star 1-6
Wild Animals 1
Black Hood 1-3
Blue Ribbon 1-4
Comet 1, 2
Fly 2-5
Mighty Crusaders 2-5
Shield 1-3
Steel Sterling 4
Thunder Bunny 1
Guardian 1
Survivors 1
Justice Machine 1

Magazines

Amazing Heroes 20, 21, 23, 24, 32, 34
American Fantasy 1
Captain Britain 2-4, 6-22, 24-39
Castle of Frankenstein 21, 22
Close Encounters of the Third Kind Movie Special 1
Comic Reader 202, 206, 207, 210
Comics Journal 80, 81, 85
Crazy 82, 93, 94
Creepy 56, 58-60, 84, 86, 87, 90, 92, 94, 97-99, 101, 104, 115, 120-122, 124-129
Dracula Lives 4
Eerie 52, 57, 61, 63, 78, 79, 83, 89, 96, 107, 113-118, 122-124, 131
Famous Monsters 87, 108, 191
Fangoria 25, 26
Fantastic Films 36, 38
Future (Life) 1, 3-13, 15, 17, 19, 23-28, 30, 31
Gods of Mount Olympus 1-3 (Limited Edition B&W Tabloids by Joe Staton of E-Man)
Grokk 1
Howard the Duck 2, 3, 7, 8
Mad Super Special 14
Man, Myth, and Magic 2-5
Movie Monsters 2
National Lampoon 6/72, 8/73, 9/73, 11/73, 1/74 — 7/74, 1/75, 2/76
Nightmare 1974 Annual
1984/1994 2, 4, 15-17
Omni 8, 12, 14, 16-22, 24-29, 31-33
Orb 5, 6
Pizzaz 5, 6
Psycho 17, 18
Rook 5-7
Science Fiction Horror & Fantasy 2
Starburst 32, 33
Tales of VooDoo Sept. 1974
Tomb of Dracula 1-4
UFO and Alien Comics 1
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Marvel

Annie 1,2
Battlestar Galactica 1-3, 9, 13-23
Beware 7
Bladerunner 1,2
Blip 1-7
Capt. Savage 11, 14
Chamber of Chills 10, G.S.2
Chamber of Darkness 8
Creatures on the Loose 14, 17, 21, 22, 26-29
Dark Crystal 1, 2
Dead of Night 6
Dennis the Menace 1-4, 6
Devil Dinosaur 2-4
Dragonslayer 1, 2
Eternals 2, 3, 18
Fear 21
Ghost Rider 77
Godzilla 16-18
Howard the Duck 4-10, 13-15, 17-19
Human Fly 2, 4, 7, 14-17
James Bond 1, 2
John Carter 6, 7
Journey Into Mystery 2, 5-10, 13
Krull 1,2
Machine Man 13, 17
Man-Thing (1981) 2-11
Marvel Age 7, 9-11
Marvel Super Action 18, 19, 28, 33, 34
Marvel Super-Heroes 88, 92, 94-103
Marvel Tales 98, 99
Powerman/Ironfist 72, 86
Star Wars 4 (reprint)
Strange Tales 176
Tales to Astonish (New) 4, 6-14
Tarzan 2
Team America 1-7, 10, 11
2001 1, 3, 7
U.S. 1 1-8

DC

Action 528, 529, 535-537, 538, 541-544, 547-553
Adventure 437, 442, 448, 452, 454, 456-458, 460, 467-490
Batman 344
Blackhawk 244, 251-257, 262, 264, 266, 268
Black Magic 1
Captain Carrot 3, 4, 8, 9, 11-16, 19, 20
Challengers 81, 84, 87
Dark Mansion 2
DC Comics Presents 61-65
Ghosts 24
House of Secrets 114, 117
Kamandi 21, 22, 25
Kung Fu Fighter 11, 13, 18
Madame Xanadu 1
Mystery in Space 111-116
Night Force 1-10, 12-14
Our Fighting Forces
Phantom Zone 1-4
Sandman 1
Secrets of Haunted House 7, 33
Shazam 1-7, 9-11
Superboy 2-5, 8, 10-14, 26-28, 30, 31, 47, 49, 50
Superfriends 6, 14
Supergirl 1-8, 10-16
Superman 351-372, 376-381, 387, 388, 390-392
Tomahawk 137
Unexpected 158, 159
Wanted 5
Weird Mystery Tales 1-3, 10
Weird War 59, 77, 79, 83, 88
Weird Western 39, 45, 47-50, 54, 55, 58-62, 66-70

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Cloak and Dagger 1-4
Conan 34, 100, 115, 116, Ann. 6-8. Special Edition (Red Nails) 1
Coyote 1-4
Crystar 1, 6 (Nightcrawler)
Daredevil 183-192, 196
Dazzler 1, 21
Defenders 18, 51, 54
Dr. Strange 50, Special Edition 1, Classics 1, 2
Dreadstar 2, 6, 7, Ann. 1
Fantastic Four 222, 224, 226-231, 236, 237, 248-250, Ann. 16, 17
Fantastic Four Roast 1
Hawkeye 1-4
Hercules (1983) 1
Hulk 166, 173-175, Annuals 6, 9, 10, 11 (Miller), 12
Indiana Jones 1
Invaders 20
Iron Man 40, 142, 147-158, Annual 6
Jack of Hearts 1
Ka-Zar (1981) 1
King Conan 4, 5, 13-15, 17-19
Kull (1983) 1-4
Magik 1-4
Marvel Fanfare 5-13
Marvel Premiere 38, 47
Marvel Spotlight 4 (1971 - 3rd Werewolf by Night)
Marvel Super Special 22 Bladerunner, 25 Rock and Rule
Marvel Tails 1
Marvel Tales 19
Marvel Team-Up 75
Marvel Two-in-One 59, 60, 67, 69-71, 73, 74, 100
Micronauts 13-34, Ann. 2 Special Edition 1-3
Moon Knight 2-14, Special Edition 1-3
New Mutants 10
Peter Parker 43-57, 59, 60, 81, 82
ROM 19-25, 27-30, Ann. 2
S.H.I.E.L.D. Special Edition 1, 2
Spider-man 133, 136, 140, 190, Annuals 11, 14
Spider-man vs. the Hulk: Newspaper insert - Dallas Times Herald
Spiderman and the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders: Newspaper insert - Dallas Times Herald
Spiderwoman 1, 50
Star Wars 6-13, 37, 41-44, Annual 3
Tales of Asgard 1
Warlock Special Edition 1-6
X-Men Classics 1-3
X-Men/Micronauts 1-4

DC

All Star Squadron 5-7
Amethyst 1
Arak 1, 24
Arion 1
Batman Special 1
Camelot 3000 9, 10
DC Comics Presents 41, Annual 1
Detective 483
Forever People 11
Green Arrow 1
Green Lantern 150
Green Lanter/Green Arrow 3-5
JLA 193 (All-Star Squadron), 196
Legion 266, 268, 269, 279, 295-299, 301
Mr. Miracle 2
Nathanial Dusk 1
Ronin 1-4
Superboy 229, 247
Tarzan 207
Teen Titans 16, 17
Thriller 1-4
Vigilante 2-4
Wonder Woman 287 (Teen Titans), 300
World's Finest 300.

Independent Publishers

Cerebus 50, 51, 54-58
Journey 4, 5
Americomics 1
Nexus 1
Charlton Bullseye 1, 2
Skrog 1
DNAgents 2-6
Eclipse Monthly 1-4
E-Man 5-7
Warp 1
Spirit 1
Alien Worlds 2, 4, 5
Bernie Wrightson 2, 3
Darklon 1
Ms. Mystic 1
Ravens and Rainbows 1
Skateman 1
Sommerset Holmes 2
Thrillogy 1
Masterworks 1-3
Vortex 3-5

Magazines

Bizarre Adv. 27 (Secret Lives of X-Men) 29 (Stephen King)
Blade Runner Movie Special 1
Creepy 2, 3, 6, 17
Eclipse Monthly (B&W) 8
Eerie 7, 8, 25, 27
Epic 2, 3
Famous Monsters 34, 36, 39
Heavy Metal 13, 43-45
Hulk 7, 21-27
Marvel Super Special 2 Conan 3 Close Encounters 15 Star Trek
Monster World 3-10
Monsters Unleashed 5
Savage Sword of Conan 34, 35, 58, 70, 74, 80-82, 95
Savage Tales 4, 5
Spirit World (1973-Kirby)
Starlog 11, 16-20, 38-44

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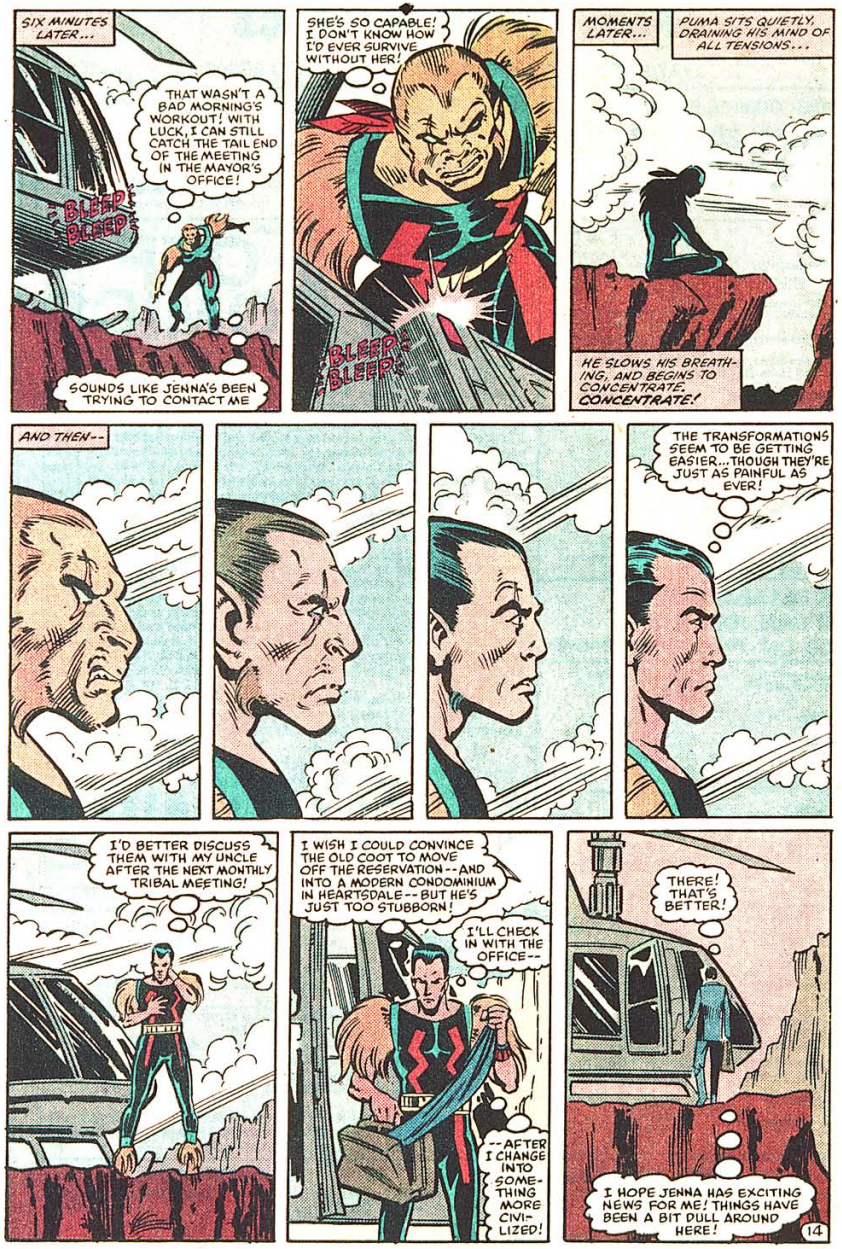

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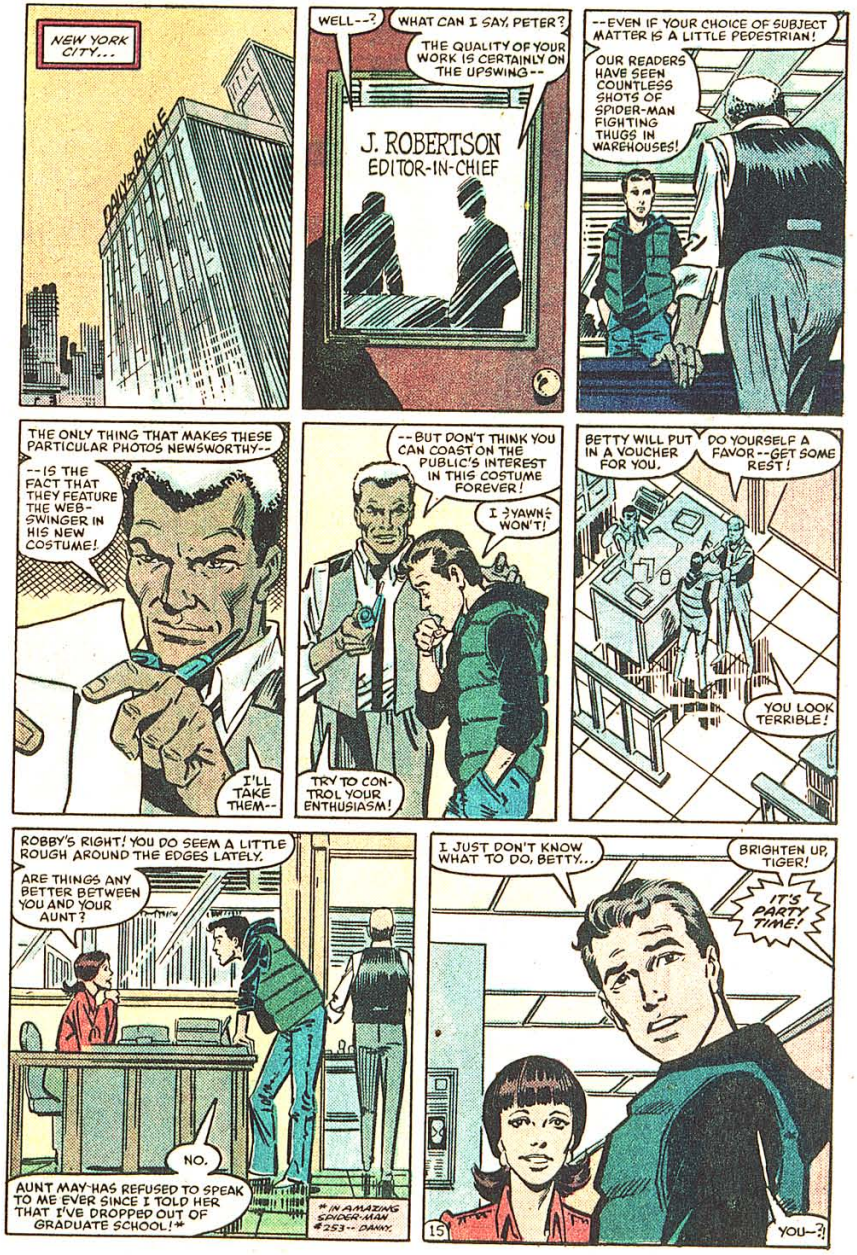

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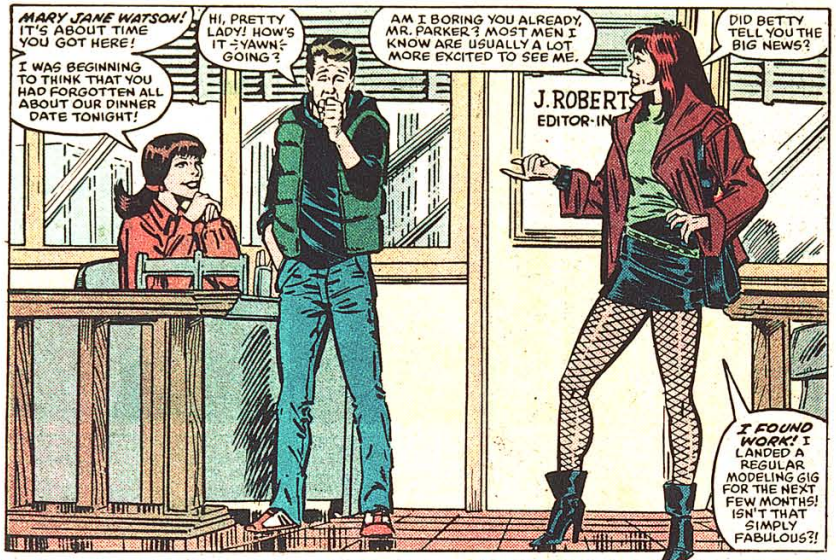

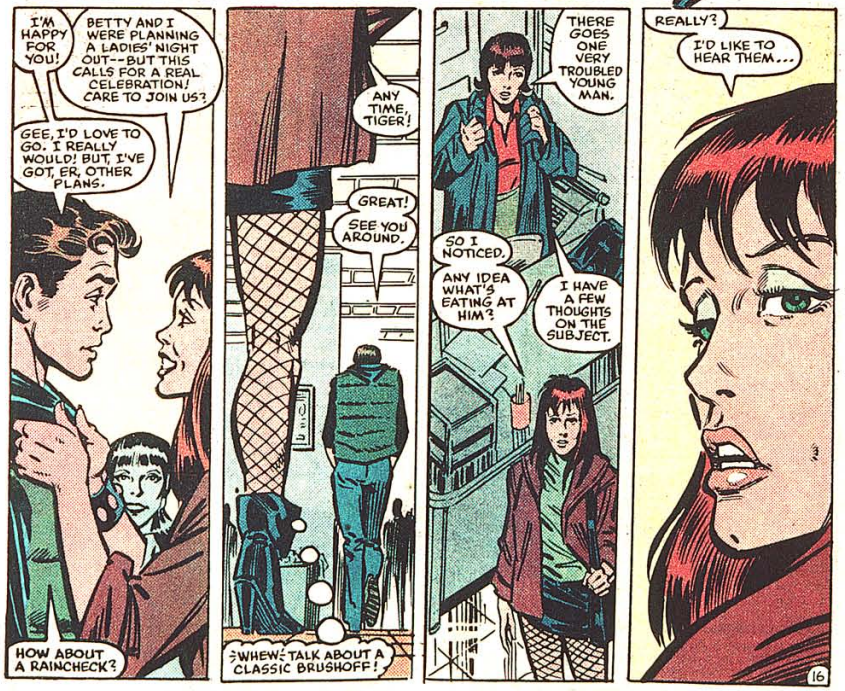

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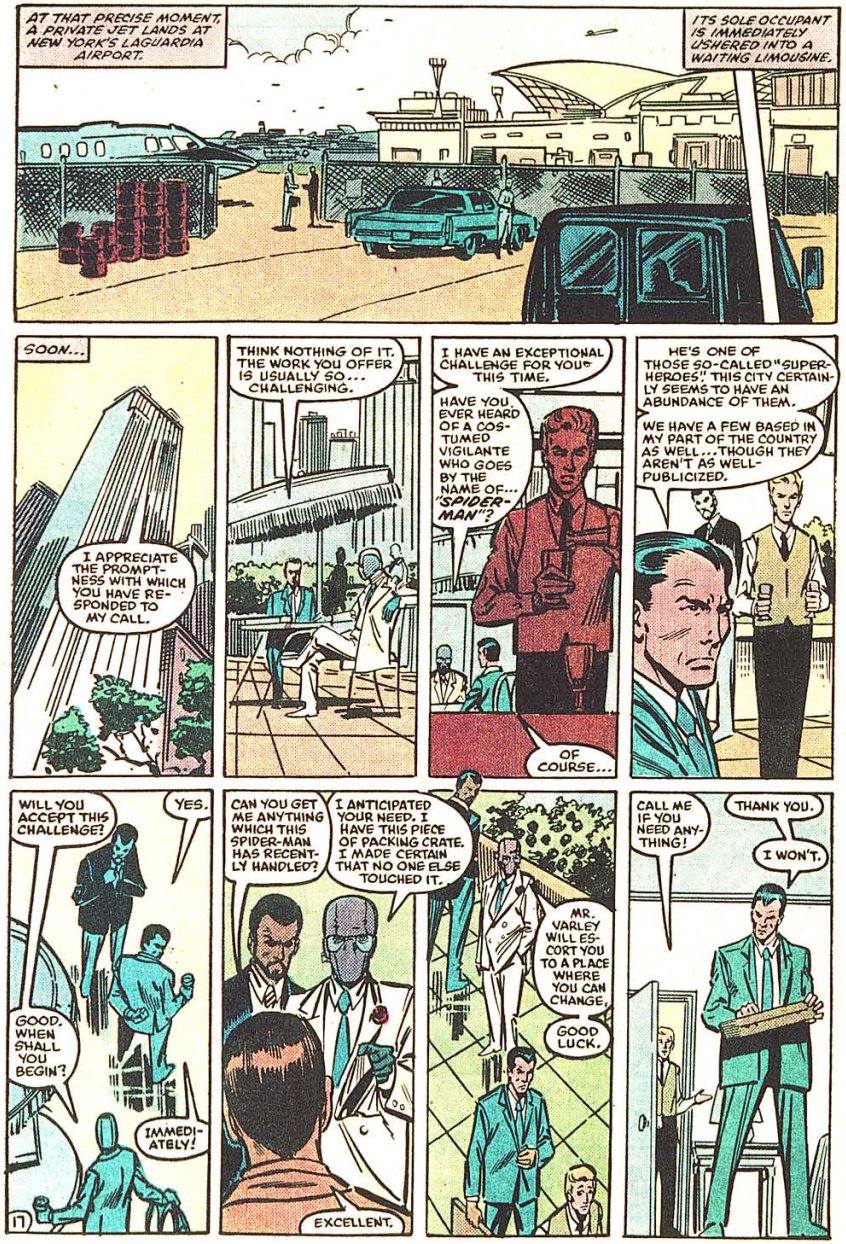

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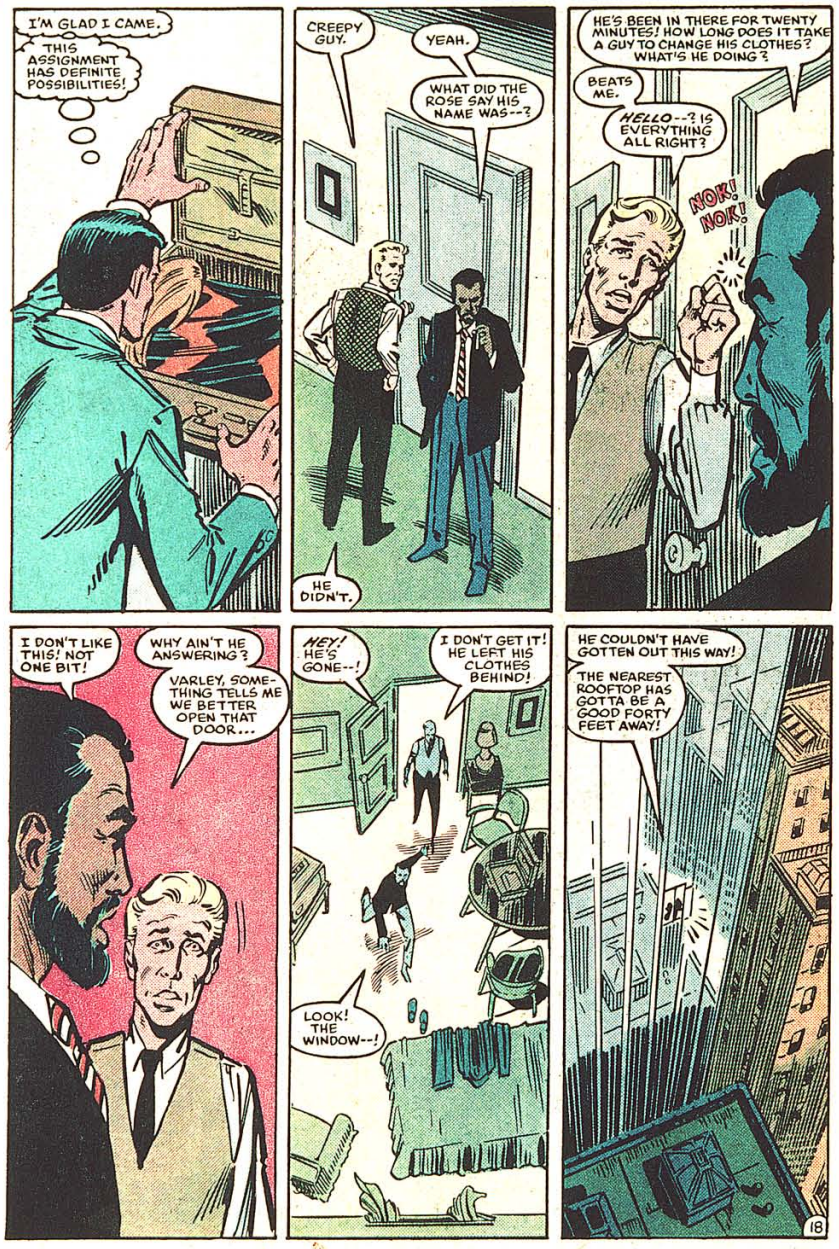

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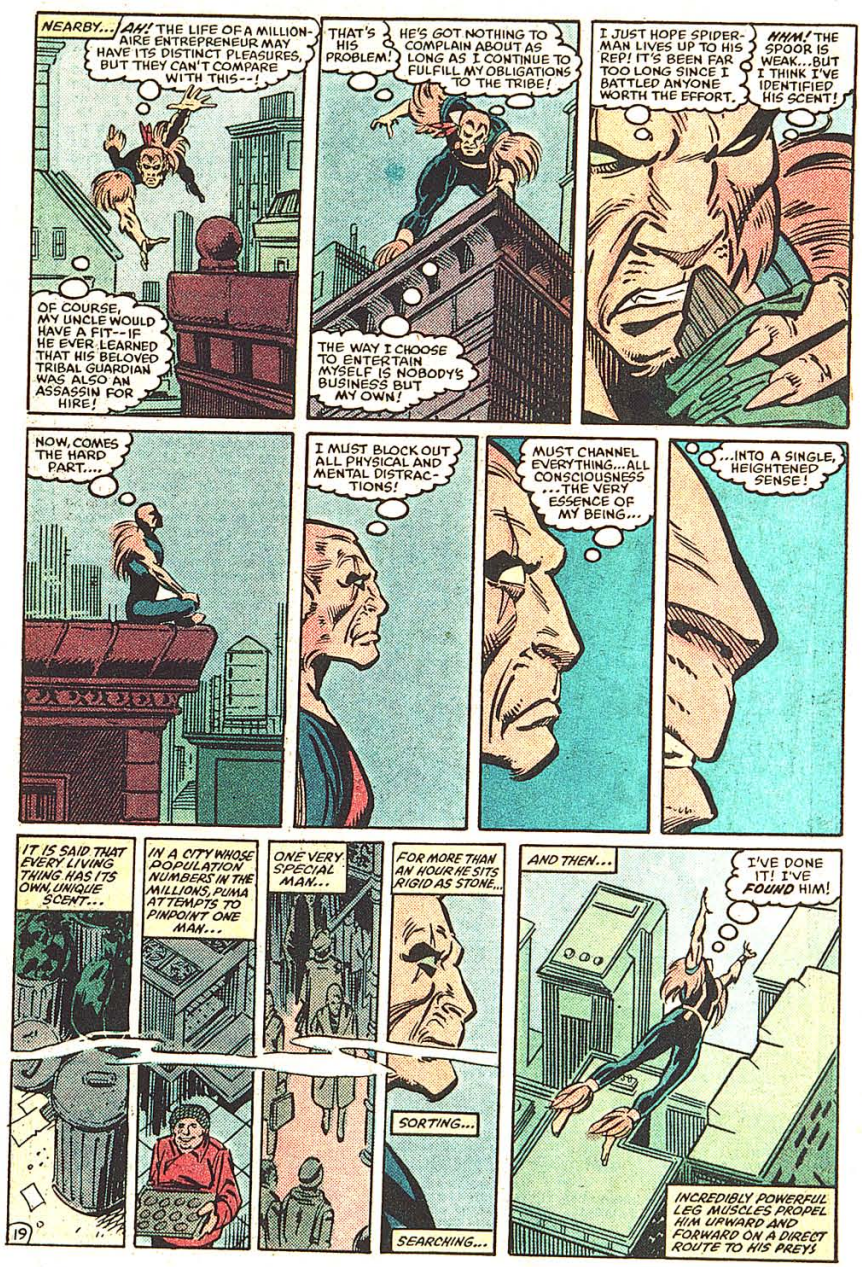

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Bullpen Bulletins

WORTH NOTING . . .

I've been informed that those nice folks from PARKER BROTHERS are at it again.

Not content with bringing production here to a screeching halt by releasing the SPIDER-MAN VIDEO GAME CARTRIDGE a while back, thereby causing all of the video-game addicts around here to be glued to their home-video consoles nonstop for days, they're coming out with *more* great games. Not only that, they've got a special phone number you can call (for only half a buck a shot) which gives you the word on the latest from the Parker Brothers videoids. And the number is . . . 1-900-720-1234.

Don't get me wrong — they're going to try to get you interested enough to *buy* their games if you call. It isn't exactly a public service announcement you get when you call the number — but, then again, it *is* a service if you're really interested in video games and you really want to know what's coming up. I know that no one around here who plays video games could resist calling! And they look so happy now — !

INCIDENTALLY . . .

Some people have asked why our Limited Series now cost 75¢. Good question. We *did* go the heavier, whiter, Mando Roto paper — but that doesn't increase our costs anywhere near enough to justify a hike from 60¢ to 75¢. It does cost enough to warrant *some* increase in cover price though. We considered going to 65¢, or even 70¢, but we felt that such a move would have caused great confusion among retailers, who would have then been faced with *three* different prices on comics which all look pretty much the same to them. Believe me, they're already plenty confused with just *two* different prices. More confusion could hurt the whole comics *industry*. Really. Therefore, we reluctantly followed the competition's lead and went to 75¢ for our Mando Roto Limited Series comics. It's, frankly, too much to charge — but we felt we had no choice. The good news is that, because we're making a little "extra" on the Limited Series comics, we'll be able to hold off on a price increase on the 60¢ line that much longer.

Sincerely,

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

THE HYPE BOX

SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #1 — Prince Namor is the offspring of both Atlantis and the surface world, yet he feels at home in neither. Will his attempt to unite the two bring him peace of mind — or tear him and his homeland apart? This is the first installment of the long-awaited four-issue limited series, brought to you courtesy of J.M. DeMATTEIS, writer, BOB BUDIANSKY, penciler, and DANNY BULANADI, inker.

WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #1 — What do you do when you have too many Avengers in New York City? Why, you send some of them off to California to open a branch office, of course! Hawkeye and Mockingbird are two of the charter members. The others? You wouldn't believe us if we told you! But what we're wondering is this: Will this branch office have drive-up windows? Written by ROGER STERN, penciled by BOB HALL and inked by BRETT BREEDING.

SIX FROM SIRIUS #1 — The rescue of one woman can prevent the slaughter of 25 billion innocent people — at least! But it won't be easy to rescue her; she's being guarded by robots programmed to kill any warm, moving object on detection. That's where Six from Sirius come in. They're a group of crack intergalactic mercenaries that tackle missions like this as a matter of course. The series is by DOUG MOENCH and PAUL GULACY, the award-winning team that brought you MASTER OF KUNG-FU. New from Epic Comics.

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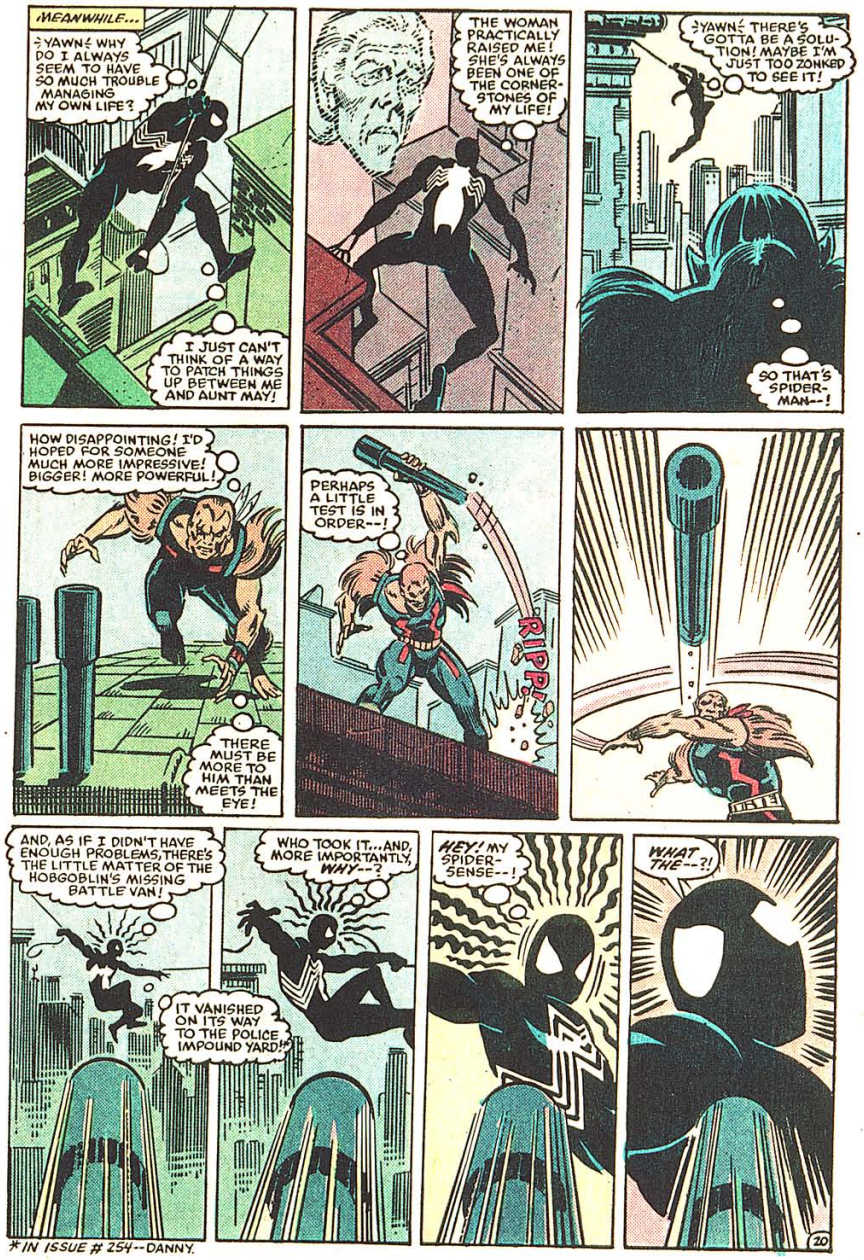

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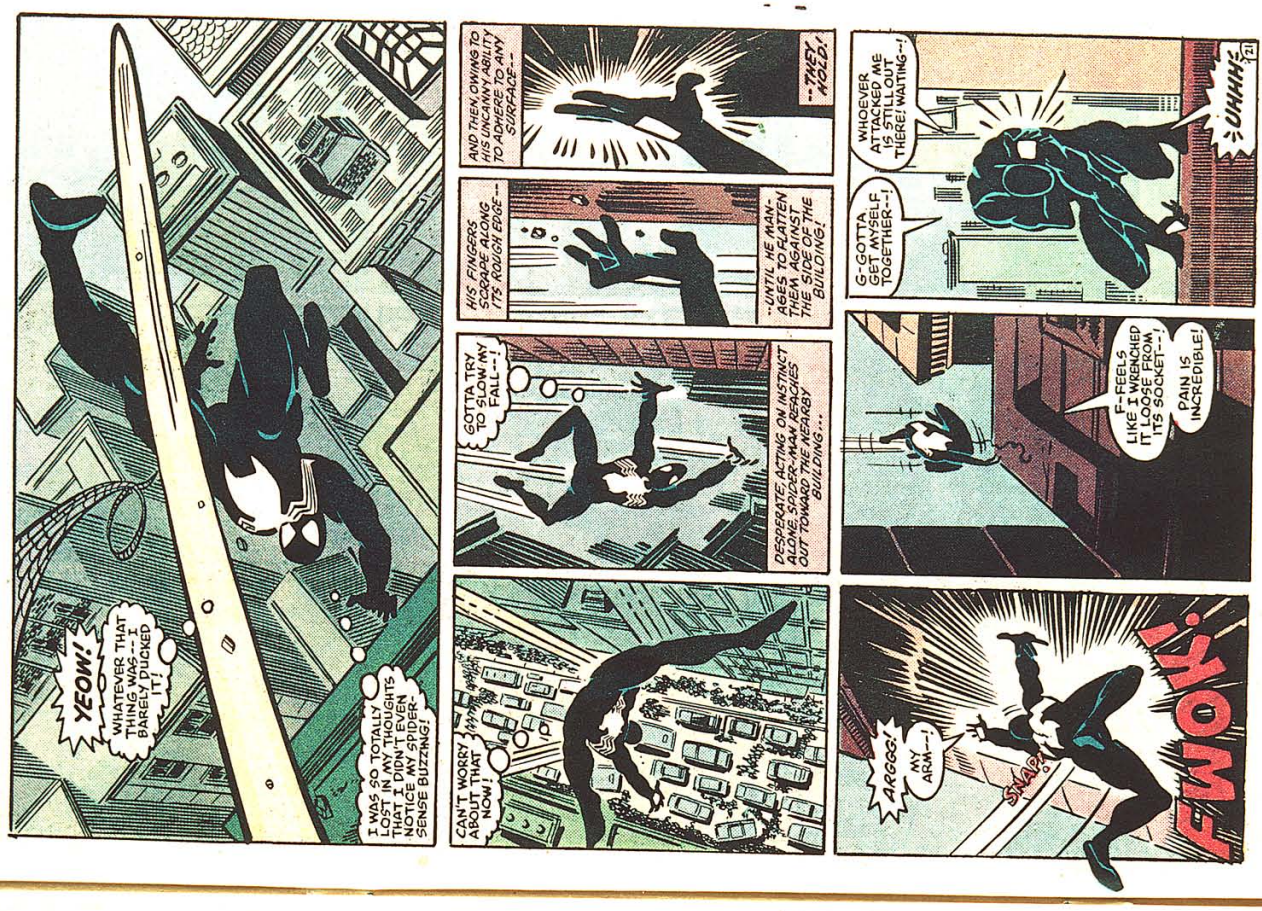

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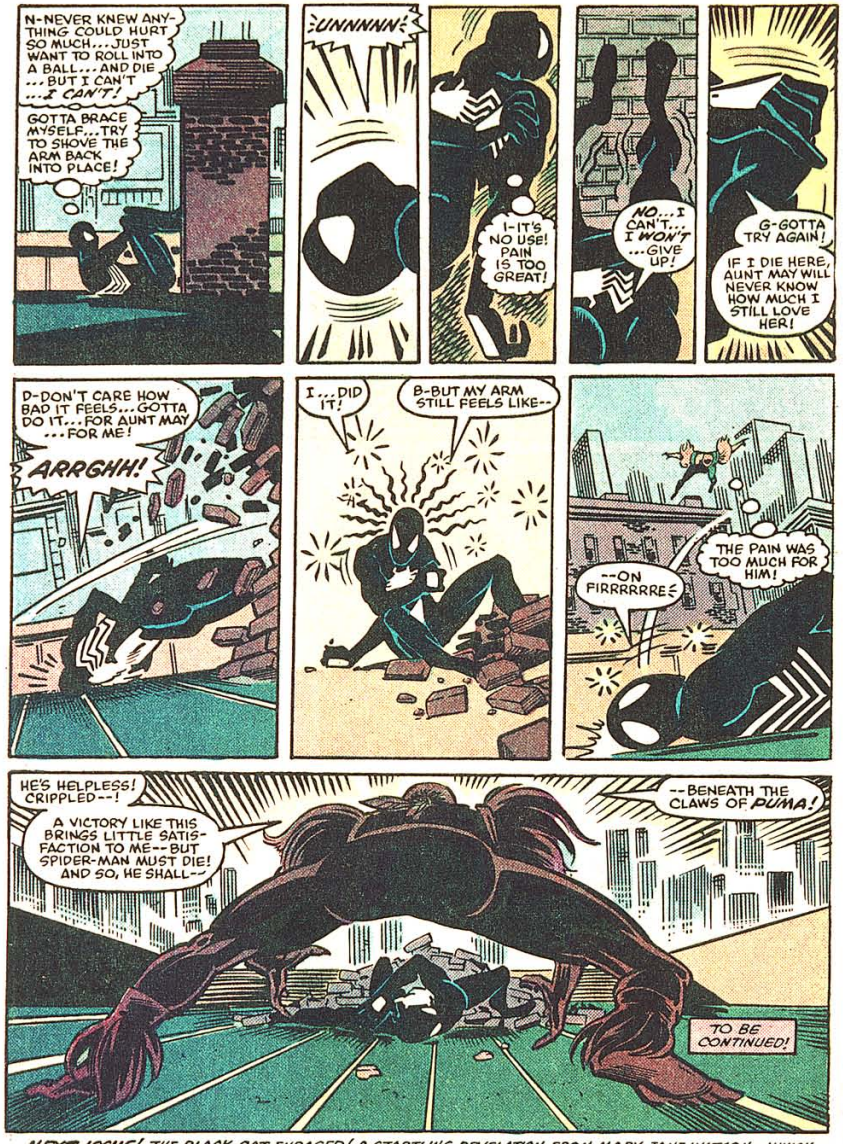

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Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Marvelites,

I have just finished reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #250, and I must say the Hobgoblin is a superb villain. He is almost as mad as Norman Osborn was, yet apparently more controlled and rational.

By the way, I truly admired the way Jonah handled his blackmail. He may be loud-mouthed and overbearing, but he is definitely too proud to be blackmailed, and would surely admit to his mistakes before submitting to blackmail.

Ivan Rhudick
(no address given)
Lynnfield, MA

Dear Roger and John,

I must say that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #250 was one of the highest-quality issues in terms of artwork that I've ever seen you guys do in a regular format. Every frame was tight and concise, and there wasn't a lot of clutter in the background to detract from the action. The result was a very clean, crisp flow throughout the book. Klaus Janson and John Romita, Jr. make a stupendous team. I haven't seen Klaus's work look so good since he was inking Frank Miller's stuff in DAREDEVIL. I'm rapidly becoming a big fan of John's, too.

Your decision to make the 250th-anniversary issue normal-sized was definitely a wise move as well. The plot seemed to call for a break there. I was sure that you couldn't have wrapped it up in this issue even if it were double-sized. It makes for great suspense, too. I'm on the edge of my mailbox.

The sub-plots of Jameson's confession and Spider-Man's spider-sense problems — along with Spidey's difficulties in getting any information on the Hobgoblin — made for a very realistic and diverse storyline. To me, this is the kind of thing that makes Marvel great. Keep up the good work, guys!

Bruce McCarthy
Box 736
3820 Locust St.
Philadelpha, PA 19104

C'mon, guys!

You don't have to tell anyone else — just me. Just whisper it in my ear . . . who is the Hobgoblin? I promise not to tell anyone!

By the way, why is it when people write to congratulate you on an issue they always forget Joe Rosen? Come on! Joe Rosen is a great letterer! (Yay, Joe!)

Jason Stoddart
158 Bridle Path
London, Ontario N5Y 2H2
Canada

Joe Rosen, take a bow.

So ya wanna know who the Hobgoblin is, Jason? Good! If you *didn't* . . . we'd be in a lot of trouble!

Dear Roger, John and Klaus,

Arrgh! You can't *do* this. Jonah's going to resign, isn't he? Now look what you've done — you've made him too blamed principled. No, I take that back, Jonah's going through something else, a fate worse than senility — he's getting (dare I say it?) mellow!

Kill off Aunt May if you must, but keep my favorite newsman the way he is! Jonah, we hardly knew ye.

Keith Herndon
39 Revere St.
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Authors of Marvel,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #250 was great! What else can I say?

This letter was written by the *Anonymous Comic Critic*, and I say all your books rate 100 percent in my book!

What do you get for a prize? Every time you look at yourself in a mirror, you will see Mysterio and smoke will come out of your nose!

The Anonymous Comic Critic
(no address given)

Funny you should say that. A.C.C. — that sort of stuff has been happening to my editorial arch-nemesis Mark Gruenwald for years!

Dear Marvel,

You know what would be neat? The Green Goblin battling the Hobgoblin!

Guy D'agui
(no address given)
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 2J9
Canada

Wouldn't it, though!

Dear Roger, John and Klaus,

The fact that the Hobgoblin's identity wasn't revealed in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #250 made it a very special normal-sized issue.

Considering the exposé that J. Jonah Jameson is preparing to publish, I hope we'll soon be seeing an *extraordinary* normal-sized issue featuring the long-awaited return of the Scorpion.

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, PA 18509

You're in luck, Jeffrey. Not only is the upcoming SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL gonna be extraordinary, but it's gonna feature the Scorpion *and* be normal-sized (for an *annual* — which means forty pages)!

Dear Danny, Roger and John,

Great mystery, guys. Over the past year the "Who is the Hobgoblin" question in both AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and PETER PARKER has made the "Who Shot J.R.?" nonsense on *Dallas* a few years back seem like peanuts.

Rod Billings
170 E. 4th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11218

Dear Danny,

It's gotta be Mendel Stromm!

Robert Avenetti
(no address given)
Kearny, AZ 85237

Dear Mr. Stern,

The mysterious Hobgoblin is none other than Aunt May's long-lost son!

During my re-reading of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238, I noticed a peculiar thought by Aunt May (page 10, panel 2). The unfinished sentence, "You never lost a child like I . . . ", sent my mind racing. I've wondered if Aunt May and Uncle Ben had any children before they adopted Peter. I think it would be an interesting storyline if Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man, were to find out that one of his deadliest enemies is his own cousin!

What I'm about to write next will probably sound ridiculous, but here goes anyway. On page 21, panel 4, of issue #238, the line "his *forays* into the world of crime . . . " may be a clue that Hobby is Aunt May's little boy, grown up.

I say this because the voice of Aunt May on the recent Spider-Man cartoons is spoken by June *Foray*.

Well, am I right, or what?

Sam Rettig
225 South Virginia St.
Hobart, IN 46342

Huh?

Dear Mr. Fingeroth,

The Hobgoblin is . . . *Ambassador Duke Harris!*

Glenn Hauman
103 Myrtle Ave.
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

You know — and I know — but does Garry Trudeau (*Doonesbury* writer / artist and Duke's inimitable creator) know?

Dear Editor,

Here's my theory on who the Hobgoblin is. We know this much:

— He's someone who has seen little of our hero's powers in action, even though he has contacts with the underworld.

— He's medium-build, caucasian, with brownish hair, probably in his late 30s, and has an above-average aptitude for science and electronics.

— His speech patterns seem to indicate that he probably isn't from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Canada or below the Mason-Dixon Line.

— He must be making enough money to hire henchmen and to rent a "mansion on Long Island."

— And, finally, fright-face also seems to have a few ambitions of tearing Spider-Man limb from limb.

Therefore, from the above info, it seems that our villain is a low-rate scientist from the northeast, perhaps retired or fired due to mental problems or criminal activity who has not spent much time in New York City — which rules out almost everyone who knows Peter Parker.

R. Cohen
(no address given)
Bronx, NY

But who do you think he *is*, R.?

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Danny Fingeroth

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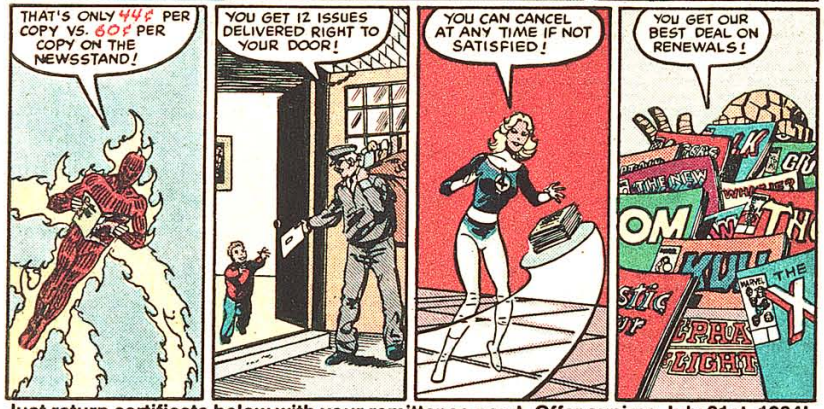

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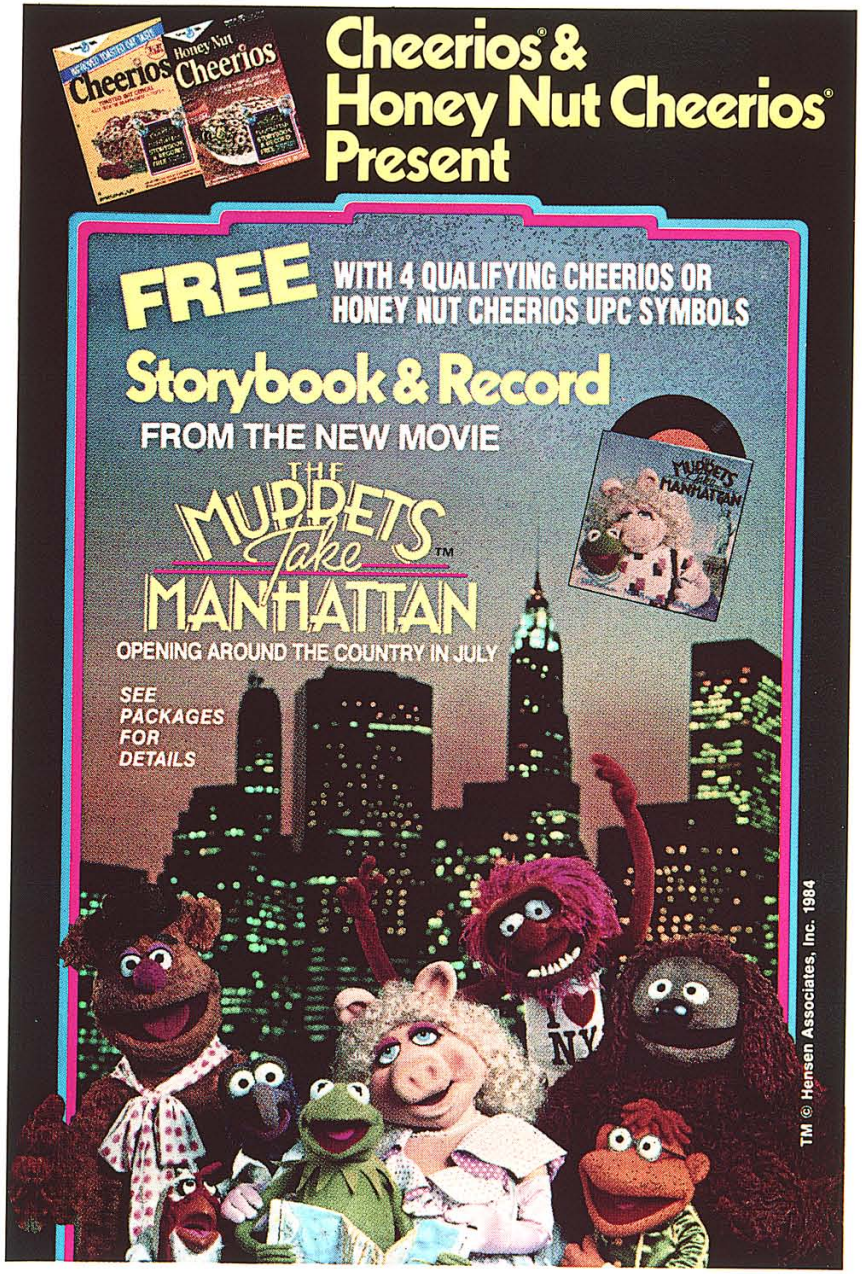

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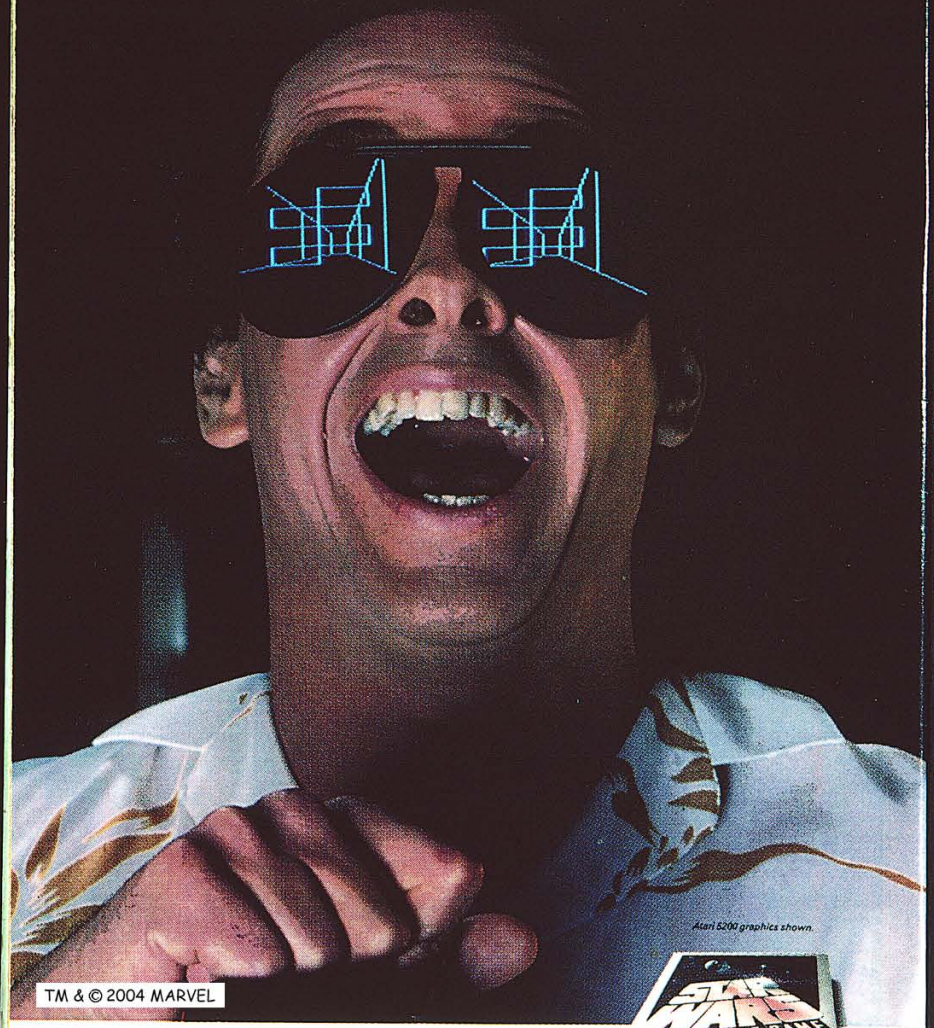

Atari 5200 graphics shown.

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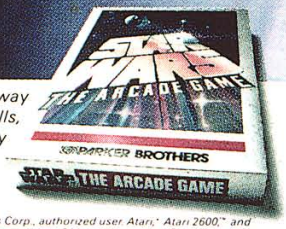

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